

E 302

.6

.H2 N5

Copy 1

















ALEXANDER HAMILTON,

THE GREAT FEDERALIST.

"PRESS"  PRINT.

No. 269 Main Street, Paterson, N. J.

# Alexander Hamilton



## AN HISTORICAL ESSAY

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BIRTH OF

## THE GREAT FEDERALIST.

By ALFRED NEUBURGER

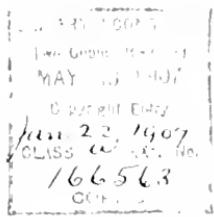
[ILLUSTRATED]

PATERSON,

NEW JERSEY.

*RUMLER BROS., PUBLISHERS.*

1907.



Copyright, 1907,

by

ALFRED NEUBURGER.

To

The British Ambassador at Washington,

The Right Honourable

JAMES BRYCE, D. C. L., O. M.

This volume is

*DEDICATED*

as a token of respect and esteem  
for the Author of

“THE AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH.”



## CONTENTS

---

	Page.
Dedication .....	5
Preface .....	9
Sources of Information.....	10
Motto .....	11
Introductory .....	13
Hamilton's Birth and Early Youth.....	14
College Days .....	17
Entrance in Public Life.....	19
Hamilton's Financial Proposals.....	22
Marriage .....	24
Hamilton at Albany and Philadelphia.....	26
Hamilton, the New Yorker.....	27
Hamilton's Most Famous Achievement.....	28
First Secretary of the Treasury.....	39
Founding of the City of Paterson, N. J.....	31
Retirement into Private Life.....	34
Political Survey .....	36
The Beginning of the End.....	39
The Duel .....	41
Hamilton's Death .....	42
Mementos .....	43
Hamilton's Slayer.....	48
Conclusion .....	48
In Memoriam .....	53
Ad Honorem .....	55

## ILLUSTRATIONS

---

Alexander Hamilton.....	Frontispiece,
Mrs. Hamilton.....	Opposite Page 24
Passaic Falls.....	" " 32
Panorama of Paterson, N. J.....	" " 34
Hamilton Statue in Paterson, N. J.....	" " 36
Hamilton Grange.....	" " 40
Duel Scene.....	" " 42
Weehawken Monument.....	" " 44
Hamilton's Tomb.....	" " 46
Alexander Hamilton, Major General U. S. Armies, and Secretary of Treasury.....	" " 50

## PREFACE.

---

The public character of the subject, which I am presenting to my reader warrants the remark that nothing essentially new can be brought forth relating to the remarkable career of the ardent Patriot and great Statesman, Alexander Hamilton.

His life has been so much commented upon and his manner of living was so frank and exposed to the gaze of his fellow countrymen, that the Historian had comparatively an easy task to hand down to posterity a true account of his splendid achievements.

The one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Alexander Hamilton should be a new incentive to pay homage to the memory of the brilliant American, who has rendered to his country such inestimable services.

The City of Paterson, mindful of her obligations towards him, who has been her reputed founder, and in commemoration of the one hundred fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the city, has just erected a statue representing Hamilton, as he appeared to his admiring contemporaries.

The sources from which I gathered my information, (and due credit is given them herewith), were so manifold and varied, that I lay claim only of having endeavored in as concise a manner as possible, to render an historically accurate account of Alexander Hamilton's life presenting to the reader a portrait of the great Federalist, true in every feature.

The aim of this modest volume will have been accomplished, if the perusal of its pages will bring before the reader's mental eye the colossal figure of Alexander Hamilton.

THE AUTHOR.

PATERSON, N. J.,  
May 5th, 1907

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

---

"Works of Alexander Hamilton," Edited by Henry Cabot Lodge.

John Church Hamilton's "Life of my Father, Alexander Hamilton."

Henry Cabot Lodge's "Alexander Hamilton."

John Torrey Morse, Jr.'s "Life of Alexander Hamilton."

"Library of American Literature."

"Encyclopedia Americana."

"Encyclopedia Britannica."

Valuable data furnished by Major-General Alexander Hamilton, the statesman's grandson.

---

The illustrations herein presented are exact reproductions from photographs made specially for this book by John Hartmeyer, Jr., of Paterson, N. J.

“ . . . The most substantial glory of a country is in its virtuous great men. . . . That nation is fated to ignominy and servitude, for which such men have lived in vain. . . . The name of HAMILTON would have honored Greece in the age of Aristides. . . . May Heaven, the guardian of our liberty, grant that our country may be fruitful of HAMILTONS,—and faithful to their glory! . . . ”

FISHER AMES.



# ALEXANDER HAMILTON

## THE GREAT FEDERALIST.

---

### Introductory.

YEONS before Christopher Columbus landed on these shores, this continent which we proudly proclaim as our own AMERICA, possessed a history reaching way beyond the ken of man.

This unwritten history must have been startling from its convulsions and changes, the material records of which we find buried beneath our soil.

But in glancing over the pages of chronicled events, which have indelibly left their imprint upon the minds of our people, from the time of Columbus, to the days of Theodore Roosevelt, there are no incidents appealing so much to our imagination, as the stirring times of the American revolution, and the spirit they universally evoked among our forbears, known to every true American heart, as

### “THE SPIRIT OF '76.”

It seems to be ordained by an All-Wise Providence, that in emergencies of the most vital character to a nation, and in the most troublous periods of her career, the proper instruments to carry out her

destiny, and bring to a successful issue her mission, are at all times forthcoming.

Such was the case with the British Colonies, which prior to their Declaration of Independence, found themselves for several years in irreconcilable opposition to the powers in London who so persistently declined to read "The Handwriting on the Wall."

Among the galaxy of stars, which rose on the American horizon, and whose names are forever written in imperishable script upon the tablets of fame, to whose courage, wisdom, and indomitable love for freedom from an unbearable yoke, we owe today, the priceless treasure of a free and united country, the name of ALEXANDER HAMILTON shines forth with particular lustre,—indeed growing more intense as time rolls on.

### **Hamilton's Birth and Early Youth.**

Alexander Hamilton was born on January 11th, 1757, at Charles Town upon the Island of Nevis, in the West Indies, to James Hamilton, a Scotch emigrant and his consort Rachel, a lady of French Huguenot descent, by the name of Fanelette. Her first marriage had been to a Dane named Lavine, from whom she separated after a short alliance, their union having proved uncongenial.

While still very young, Hamilton had the misfortune to lose his mother, who from all accounts, must have been no ordinary woman. Her rare beauty, her high charms of mind and character, her refined culture, and her noble and generous spirit, were ever retained in the tender memories of her illustrious son.

---

Hamilton's Scottish blood was plainly discernible in the peculiar qualities of his mind and character. The most marked and familiar traits of the genuine Scot; the shrewdness, the logical habit of mind, the love for discussion of abstract and general principles, were his, to an extraordinary degree. While, therefore, his mental traits were Scotch, he had the elegance of manner, and the vivacity of the Frenchman. His firm, moral courage, his persistency in noble and generous efforts, his power of self-sacrifice and his readiness of self-effacement combined the elements of a grand heroism. These qualities denote the scion of one of the high-spirited Protestant exiles of France, who gave to the world such a splendid example of courage, resolution and fortitude, that to it all the pages of history furnish but one parallel—the fidelity of the Jewish race to its ancient faith.

Such then was the stock from which Alexander Hamilton sprang.

Previous to his mother's death, his father became involved in financial difficulties, and by reason of their consequent poverty, Alexander, who was the only child surviving the mother, was taken in charge by her relatives. They lived at Santa Cruz, where he was placed in a school, which had only the most meagre facilities for education at its command. Presumably his instruction went little further than the knowledge of English and French, with which he had an equal and perfect familiarity.—It might be mentioned as a curiosity, and also as a sign of his remarkable memory and precociousness, that he acquired the knowledge of the Decalogue in Hebrew, when still a very young child.

He fortunately supplemented the narrow compass of his studies by miscellaneous reading, and was guided to some extent by the advice of a Presbyterian Clergyman, The Rev. Hugh Knox, with whom he became acquainted.

He was only between twelve and thirteen years old, when he was taken from school and finally placed under the guidance of a successful merchant and excellent man, one Nicholas Cruger. His rapid advance in the knowledge of mercantile affairs was so marked, that his employer felt justified in leaving the Island for a time, and in placing the whole management of important business interests in the sole charge of young Hamilton, who it must be remembered, had at that time, not yet completed his fourteenth year. This is the more notable, since we know that Hamilton's distaste for a merchant's career was most pronounced; but here as in all things, he brought his boundless energy, his remarkable will power and his subtle intellect, although so young in years, to bear upon his charge.

In the year 1772, during the month of August, a hurricane of more than ordinary violence, even for the Tropics, swept over the Leeward Islands, causing unparalleled devastation and destruction.

Before the terror and excitement which this outbreak of the elements caused had subsided, there appeared a newspaper account of the occurrence, so powerful and vivid, that even the Governor of the Island became interested and anxious to discover the unknown writer. The article was traced to Hamilton.

The unusual capacity it displayed, considering the youth of its author, made Hamilton the cynosure of

all eyes, and a plan to aid in his future career was formed and adopted by some of his friends.

His own desires were consulted, and by a turn of good fortune, it happened that he was enabled through some liberal financial arrangements, to set sail for Boston in October, 1772.

### College Days.

From Boston, Hamilton proceeded at once to New York, and placed himself at a School of some renown at Elizabethtown, N. J., under the patronage of Governor Livingston, and a Mr. Boudinot. (The latter name is not unfamiliar to Patersonians, a representative of the family being still numbered among our prominent citizens.) He was introduced into the families of these gentlemen, and through them had ready access to the best society of those days.

Meantime, Hamilton was most assiduous in his studies. His great zeal for work and the improvement of his intellectual faculties made it possible for him to be declared fit in every respect, to enter Princeton College. However, his request, made to the then President of the College, the celebrated Dr. Witherspoon, whose fame as a scholar has come down to our own days, to be permitted after passing a successful examination, to advance as rapidly as he was able, untrammelled by the regulations, then established in the College of Princeton, was too startling to find favor, and was consequently refused.

Undaunted, he at once had recourse to Columbia College, known in those days, as "King's College," in New York, where the more liberal principles at

that seat of learning, enabled him to be inscribed as a scholar at his own terms. With his wonted zeal, he applied himself at once to his allotted studies, to which he added a series of lectures upon anatomy. He also became a member of a debating club, in which, it is said, he especially distinguished himself.

The times, during which Hamilton was destined to pursue his college education, were not very propitious for a quiet student's life, and for a young man of Hamilton's mental and physical disposition, the days were indeed, as we would now say—strenuous.

The forebodings of the trouble to come, were many and significant. For some years, prior to his landing at Boston, the Revolutionary storm was brewing, and the spirit of discontent was rampant among the Colonists.

In 1765, the Stamp Act had been passed. In 1768, the famous circular letter of Massachusetts was sent forth among her sister Colonies.

In the winter of 1769-70, frequent and serious collisions took place between the Patriots and the British soldiery, both at New York and Boston.

Late in 1773, Hamilton entered College and tumultuous as was the state of public affairs then, he for a time, tried steadfastly to pursue his studies with his usual tenacity. Moreover, he felt himself a stranger in a strange land. He was not imbued at once with the spirit which animated the dwellers of the soil. In fact, it must be admitted, that to his well ordered mind, the questions at issue, and perhaps also the circumstance that he was at that time a loyal British subject, led him to lean rather on the

side of the British Crown, than on that of the rebellious Colonists.

But a visit to Boston in the Spring of 1774, where only a few short months before, the ever memorable "Tea Party" had taken place, changed completely his previously conceived vague notions, as to the righteousness of the cause, and he became a zealous partisan in the ranks of the Revolutionists.

With amazing rapidity, and without neglecting his studies at College, he made himself master of all the arguments which could well be advanced upon either side. At a great meeting of the Patriots, at New York, in July of that year, Hamilton was an eager listener to the many speakers of note. To all which had been said his blood warmed, and he felt he could add something of value. He gathered up courage enough to rise and address the people. Let us remember he was only seventeen years of age then and of such short and slight stature, that he presented the appearance of a young boy.

The throng of grown men was astonished to see a mere stripling ascend the rostrum, but their astonishment gave place to genuine admiration when they heard an argumentative address made to a body of fervent Patriots, by so young a person, but so mature a mind.

#### Entrance in Public Life.

From that moment Hamilton ceased to be a boy, and became at once a man, high in the counsels of those serious men, who planned and brought to a successful issue, the severance of the brightest jewel in the British Crown.

Hamilton was now fully committed to the Colonial struggle, and for the next two years he gave ardent support with voice and pen to the cause of freedom. He won wide repute by his vigorous speeches, and by his no less stirring pamphlet and newspaper writings.

When the authorship of "A Full Vindication" and "The Farmer Refuted" (which had been attributed to John Jay, and other experienced leaders), had been established as coming from the pen of Hamilton, the youth of eighteen, became a foremost power in the patriot movement.

In the great year of 1776, he was appointed by the New York Convention Commander of a Company of Artillery, and showed such high executive qualities, especially at the battles of Long Island and White Plains, that he was commended by General Greene, and had the extraordinary distinction of being invited by the great Washington to become his aid-de-camp, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, in 1777. Although such an expression of confidence in his character and abilities by Washington was flattering indeed to the young soldier, whose courage was never questioned, he having been found always in the thick of the fight with the utmost tranquility and composure, Hamilton still did not accept this great preferment without some degree of reluctance. He preferred to be in the fighting line, but the sentiments of respect and affection he entertained for his great chief, decided his course.

Not until nine months after he had thus become Washington's right hand, did he attain his majority.

Among his associates, was Secretary Harrison, a man old enough to be his father, who took an especial fancy to him, dubbing him "The Little Lion,"—a sobriquet by which he long continued to be known. But young as he was, he was perfectly able to hold his own among his seniors in all matters of grave counsel, whether of a purely military nature, or questions of state.

With singular freedom from jealousy they frankly accorded to his views the serious consideration to which his suggestions entitled them. His opinions were received with unqualified respect, and the terms upon which he associated with the great Commander-in-Chief and his military family were as honorable to the spirit of those renowned men as they were to the intellect of young Hamilton.

Washington took pains to let those around him know that he considered his young friend his principal and most confidential adviser. In all matters of moment it was Hamilton's advice that was most anxiously sought, most carefully weighed and most frequently followed, in whole or in part.

By his diplomacy and tact he made himself indispensable to Washington, who entrusted him with the most difficult and subtle missions, foremost among which was the famous task to induce General Gates, who had an altogether too high opinion of himself and his services, to send reinforcements to Washington. Gates had just defeated General Burgoyne in November, 1777, and was therefore prone to disobey Washington. Hamilton succeeded admirably in this difficult embassy and carried his point.

During the awful winter of 1777-78, and in the terrible days of Valley Forge, Hamilton with his buoyant spirit and unshakeable faith in the ultimate success of the Continental Arms, proved to be the greatest boon to Washington. He assisted in arranging campaigns, increasing the support of the Army and confirming the unity of the federated States. Not only did he hold the sword of the Army but General Washington's military correspondence, carried on by Hamilton in the name of his chief, remains unrivaled in the annals of warfare to this day. The orders, commands, instructions and other military pronunciamentoes, emanating from the Headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief, bearing Washington's signature, but indited by Hamilton, have distinct literary merits.

#### Hamilton's Financial Proposals.

The year 1780 saw the American conflict more in the light of a desperate rivalry in financial ability and resources between the mother country and the Colonists. The active and patriotic mind of Hamilton became engaged upon the elaboration of such financial schemes as he hoped would relieve the distress of the country, and furnish new munitions of war. He proposed a plan to establish an American Bank, to be chartered by Congress for ten years, and to be called "The Bank of the United States." The basis of this institution was to be a foreign loan of \$10,000,000 as a portion of the Bank's stock; a subscription for \$250,000,000 more, ~~guaranteed by~~ \$10,000,000 ~~of species, or by a bona fide equivalent~~ currency. The Bank notes were to be made pay-

able to the bearer in three months, at 10 per cent. An annual loan of \$50,000,000 was to be furnished to Congress by the Bank, at 4 per cent. By this scheme he became known as "The Founder of the Public Credit of the United States." To a great extent his suggestions were acted upon, and a Bank, founded on private contributions, amounting to \$1,500,000 was organized.

End

Immediately after, Congress established with little variation from Hamilton's plans, the executive departments in the new Federal Government. These plans were outlined by Hamilton in a masterly manner, giving the nature and history of Republican governments and the Confederacy of States, describing the proposed distribution of the various executive departments and defining the duties of the Officers of the Federal government. He also evolved a scheme to proportion taxes, and to collect them, showing his superior intellect travelling forward to the future and brooding over those great measures which would become essential to the establishment of national unity, harmony and prosperity, at a time when as yet the most sagacious of American Patriots were content to dwell on the conditions of the then prevailing crisis.

In that year, Hamilton was selected by Washington and Lafayette, whose friendship and affection he enjoyed to an unusual degree to the end of his earthly career, as an Ambassador Extraordinary to France, to procure more extensive and efficient aid. He declined, however, this great honor, but performed the difficult task of drawing up a letter of instructions to the ultimate Envoy Plenipotentiary to the Court of King Louis XVI at Versailles, Mr. Laurens, with his usual ability.

During this period the fate of Major Andre excited his generous sympathy. He exerted his utmost efforts to discover some legal and honorable means to save him, and when all proved unavailing, he wrote and published the facts of the case in a manner, which reflects equal credit upon his great mind, and the womanly tenderness of his heart. There is extant a letter to the young lady who was destined to become his wife, in which he deplores the fate of the young British Officer, but likewise admits the justice of the stern sentence of the Commander-in-Chief.

### **Marriage.**

On Dec. 14th, 1780, at Albany, Hamilton was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Schuyler, second daughter of General Philip Schuyler, a revolutionary soldier of high repute. This union proved to be a most happy one; his life companion being a woman possessed of great talent, and ever solicitous of the material as well as spiritual welfare of her distinguished husband, whom she was fated to survive by over fifty years. The first great shadow which fell over their blissful lives was occasioned by the loss of their eldest son, Philip Schuyler Hamilton, who fell mortally wounded in a duel defending the honor of his father. By a cruel irony of fate the combat took place at exactly the same spot where three years later the father was to meet his antagonist on the so-called "Field of Honor," only also to be ruthlessly slain. Hamilton never quite recovered from the blow which this entirely wanton sacrifice of the very promising and brilliant boy of eighteen years, struck to his fatherly heart.



ELIZABETH SCHUYLER,  
WIFE OF  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON.



(Shortly after his marriage, in February, 1781, Hamilton withdrew from the personal service of Washington, owing to a slight rupture between these two friends. To the student of historical events nothing seems more indierous than the reply which the boy of four and twenty gave to the mighty Washington on that occasion.

It appears Washington had sent for Hamilton to call on him at his Headquarters, in New Windsor. In setting out to obey the ~~behest~~ of the Commander-in-Chief, Hamilton met General Lafayette, who engaged him for a few moments in conversation. Although anxious to make his way into the presence of his chief, Hamilton felt he could not display undue haste for fear of offending the distinguished Frenchman. As soon as he properly could he presented himself before the now angrily aroused Washington:

"Colonel Hamilton, you have been keeping me waiting these ten minutes. I consider this a want of respect," thundered Washington. "I was not conscious of it, Sir," replied Hamilton, "but since you mention the fact, we part."

It must be remembered that Hamilton for some time previous to this encounter was chafing under his enforced inability to be on the firing line. His withdrawal from Washington's Headquarters gave him the much longed-for opportunity of leading a corps to action. He received a command of light infantry under Lafayette, and greatly distinguished himself by his bravery. He led a gallant charge at Yorktown, capturing a British redoubt at the head of his storming soldiers, and thus brought his military career to a brilliant end, simultaneously with the close of the War, which the Colonists waged for Freedom. ( All aspirations of the British to subju-

gate the undaunted and sturdy Colonists came to naught with the fall of Yorktown, in October, 1781. The War was practically at an end.

### **Hamilton at Albany and Philadelphia.**

Toward the close of the year 1781, Hamilton returned to his young wife in Albany, and began the study of Jurisprudence, Finance and the Science of Government. He prepared a series of elaborate essays which appeared afterwards in the "Federalist" under the since celebrated nom-de-plume: "Publius."

In July, 1782, the New York Legislature elected Hamilton a Representative in Congress. He now moved in a sphere signally adapted to his great abilities, and was able to incorporate his broad and lofty ideas into that masterpiece of modern statesmanship: "The Constitution of the United States of America."

At this period, Hamilton proposed a resolution in Congress, which was honorable both to himself and to his subject. He moved, and it was carried, that "The Commander-in-Chief, (General Washington), be informed that on the political and military affairs of these States, Congress would always be happy to receive his sentiments, the utility of which they have on so many occasions, experienced."

During the interval of the Sessions of the Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia, he prepared himself to be admitted to the Bar, and was licensed as an Attorney-at-Law in the incredibly short time of four months. By a strange

---

coincidence, Aaron Burr, Hamilton's active and unscrupulous opponent, is perhaps the only other instance of such rapid admission to the Bar.

Hamilton had become convinced that the Federative system had outgrown its usefulness and that a stronger and more centralized form of Government was needed, but his views found no practical support or encouragement at that period. Meanwhile, the great Financier, Robert Morris of Pennsylvania, appointed Hamilton to the responsible post of Receiver of Continental Taxes in the State of New York.

He was also Chairman of the Committee on Peace Arrangements between the States and the Mother Country, and as such, reported to Congress regarding the Department of Foreign Affairs. In this report he provided that the Secretary of that Department should occupy the position of Chief of the Diplomatic Corps, and that it should be his duty to lay before Congress such plans for conducting the political and commercial intercourse of the United States with foreign powers, as might appear to him to be best adapted to promote their interests.

After the adjournment of Congress in October, 1783, Hamilton retired to Albany. At the age of twenty-six years he was thus the leading spirit of the great American Continental Congress.

### Hamilton, the New Yorker.

In the following month, November, 1783, he removed to New York City, and entered upon a large and lucrative legal practice, and although engaged in his professional pursuits, he found time to give

attention to the financial interests of his own State.

It was during this period that Hamilton's position with regard to negro slavery, which so far had not attracted a great degree of attention in American history, was defined. He wrote to one of his friends in the South that he had noticed an association against the slavery of negroes was being formed, and as he had been always partial to his brothers of that color, he wished to be enrolled in the membership of that organization.

Hamilton also took a prominent part in the establishment of the celebrated "Society of the Cincinnati." This Society was denounced as being patrician in principle and incurred violent popular prejudices, particularly in such eminent men, as Jefferson and Adams. Hamilton's masterly exposition of the great principles of the Society of the Cincinnati prevailed, and to this day the Society remains as an honorable memento of the most glorious era of American history.

He also devised a plan to build up a great system of public instruction upon comprehensive principles, and to his energy and enlightened patriotism, the city of New York is indebted for the establishment of several of her most useful Academies; and not that city alone, but others throughout the State of New York, and in different States of the Union.

#### **Hamilton's Most Famous Achievement.**

In 1787, at the age of thirty, Hamilton reached the point in his remarkable career where he performed the most important service to his country, and

erected a monument to his own fame, more honorable and more permanent than fell to the lot of any other American patriot —save Washington alone— the formation and adoption of the Federal Constitution, which now unites, governs and protects the Union.

Of this momentous work Hamilton expressed himself in one of his essays in the "Federalist" as follows:—

"I never expect to see a perfect work from imperfect man, but a Nation, without a national government, is an 'awful spectacle.'"

The articles of Confederation which up to this time had bound the States loosely together, were found to be wholly inadequate to furnish a solid foundation for the establishment and perpetuity of the Government.

Petty jealousies and discords of menacing growth made themselves manifest in its Council; the aspirations of the leaders from the various States for the hegemony assumed such proportions that a condition of things was rapidly being created, which very nearly resembled the deplorable picture, divided Germany presented to the world—prior to the formation of that mighty Empire which followed as an inevitable consequence of the war with France, in 1870-71.

Hamilton, as one of the Delegates to the Convention to draw up a new Constitution, presented an elaborate plan of ten articles, which were finally adopted and recommended by the Convention, and securing at last the final approbation of all the states, went into operation in March, 1789. Although Hamilton's plan for an upper house, called the Sen-

ate, whose members were to be elected for life, was rejected by the Convention, he with patriotic zeal, advocated the adoption of the Constitution in the amended form.

There is not in the Constitution of the United States, an element of order, of force, or of duration, which Hamilton has not powerfully contributed, to introduce into it and to give it a predominance. Among the great men of the world, who have best known the vital principles and fundamental conditions of a Government, Hamilton must at once be accorded a place in the foremost rank.

### **First Secretary of the Treasury.**

On April 6th, 1789, George Washington was unanimously elected First President of the United States of America.

One of the first official acts of the newly elected President was to secure Hamilton's consent to fill the most important post, at that time in the Cabinet, the office of Secretary of the yet to be established Treasury Department. On September 2nd, 1789, the act establishing the Treasury Department was passed, and on the 11th day of that month Hamilton received his Commission as first Secretary of the Treasury, with a yearly emolument of \$3,500.

The wisdom of Washington's selection soon became evident, and over a century has added imperishable lustre to Hamilton's grand financial achievements, comprising a period of five years, from 1789 to 1795. He brought order out of chaos; effected a system out of the confusion of national and State finances; provided a sinking fund, and elaborated

---

a plan of taxation to sustain it; reported a scheme for the assumption by the Federal Government of the State debts; submitted special reports by direction of the President or Congress on the means of raising and collecting revenue; was responsible for the establishment of a revenue cutter service and the provision of navigation laws; began the creation of a Navy; recommended the purchase of West Point for a military academy; the management of the public lands; ~~exacted~~ improved taxation; created (on a very moderate basis) the protective tariff system; and particularly, was he instrumental in the extinction of the national debt.

In 1794 he crushed with great vigor and promptitude the whiskey insurrection in western Pennsylvania, testing on that occasion for the first time with signal success the sovereign powers granted to the Central Government, in relation to the individual States.

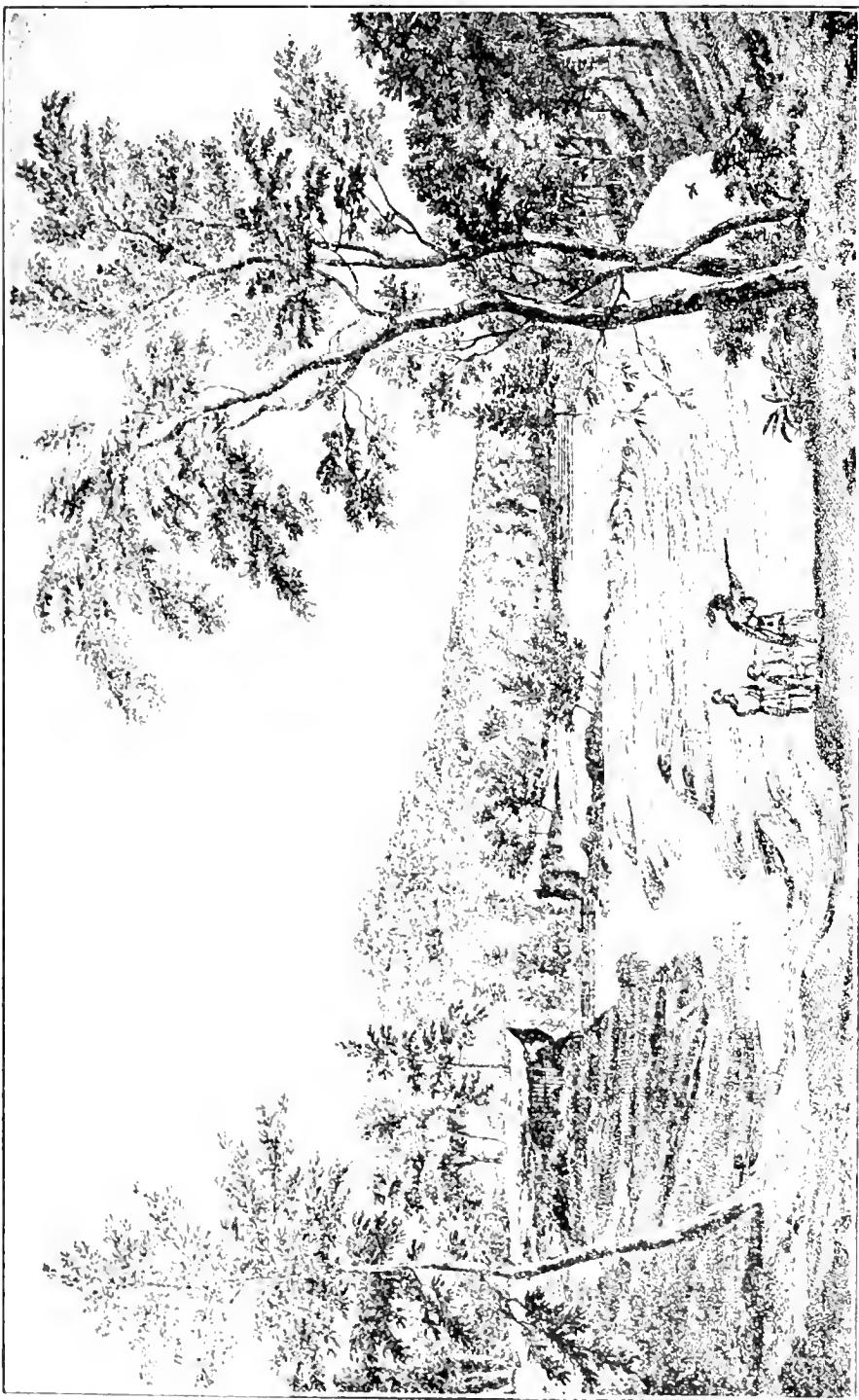
#### **Founding of the City of Paterson, N. J.**

It was during his incumbency of the Secretaryship of the Treasury that Hamilton's connection with the founding of the city of Paterson occurred. In 1791, a number of distinguished Jerseymen projected a scheme for founding a manufacturing town.

A society was created which is known to this day as the "Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures." A committee was appointed to investigate and to determine upon a proper site. They induced Hamilton to be associated with them, to which he, the more readily assented, as he was the prime factor in establishing manufactoryes and industries in

this country, so as to be independent from the Mother Country, and in fact, from Europe for their commodities. The committee after consulting with the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, selected the present site of the City of Paterson as the future manufacturing town. At their invitation Hamilton himself came to the locality to look over the ground and fully approved of the choice, which to the minds of the projectors was absolutely essential. Thereupon they obtained a charter of the New Jersey Legislature, in November, 1791, during the Governorship of William Paterson, in whose honor the projected town was to be named.

Elisha Boudinot, one of the Governors of the "Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures," received the Charter in March, 1792, and on May 18th, of the same year, 1792, the City of Paterson was called into being, standing today in spite of adversity in many forms—fire, flood, evil report of maligning tongues,—a living testimony to the far-seeing intellect of Hamilton. Her diversified industries, notably silk, of which she became the cradle in this country, are proofs of the wisdom of Hamilton's untiring energy as an upbuilder of our country's greatness. The many advantages the site of the City of Paterson presented for a manufacturing town were at once patent to Hamilton and the one hundred and fifteen years of her thriving prosperity augurs well for a future, bright in its prospects for her energetic citizens, who although so busily engaged in the pursuit of all manner of trades, are cultivating the fine arts which grace a high and noble standard of life.



PASSAIC FALLS AS IT APPEARED IN HAMILTON'S DAY, (then called Visatack Falls),  
From an old print



It is noteworthy that two of her citizens have faithfully served the nation. The late Garret A. Hobart in the exalted station as Vice President, and the Honorable John W. Griggs, a former Governor of the Sovereign State of New Jersey, in the capacity of legal adviser to the Federal Government, as Attorney General of the United States of America.

The City of Paterson, which Hamilton's approval called into existence, forms only one link in the great chain of industrial centres of the United States.

His fertile brain foresaw with astonishing accuracy the limitless possibilities, the natural resources our country offered to well-directed efforts of her citizens.

Our people became so imbued with the spirit of never resting industry and energetic zeal for commercial supremacy, that we present today, to the wonder of the world, the unparalleled spectacle of having become, in an amazingly short time, from a Debtor nation, enormously aggravated by the burdens of the Civil war, a Creditor—to which all civilized nations of the earth are bound to pay their tribute.

As Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton naturally was confronted by opposition, but for this he seemed to have cared little, until some of his political enemies attacked his official integrity. He forthwith prepared and promptly published a series of reports giving the fullest details of every public loan, and the entire operations of the Treasury Department from its inception. He laid before Congress such a wealth of information, concerning the manner in which he conducted every branch of his Department, that not only was he honorably exonerated,

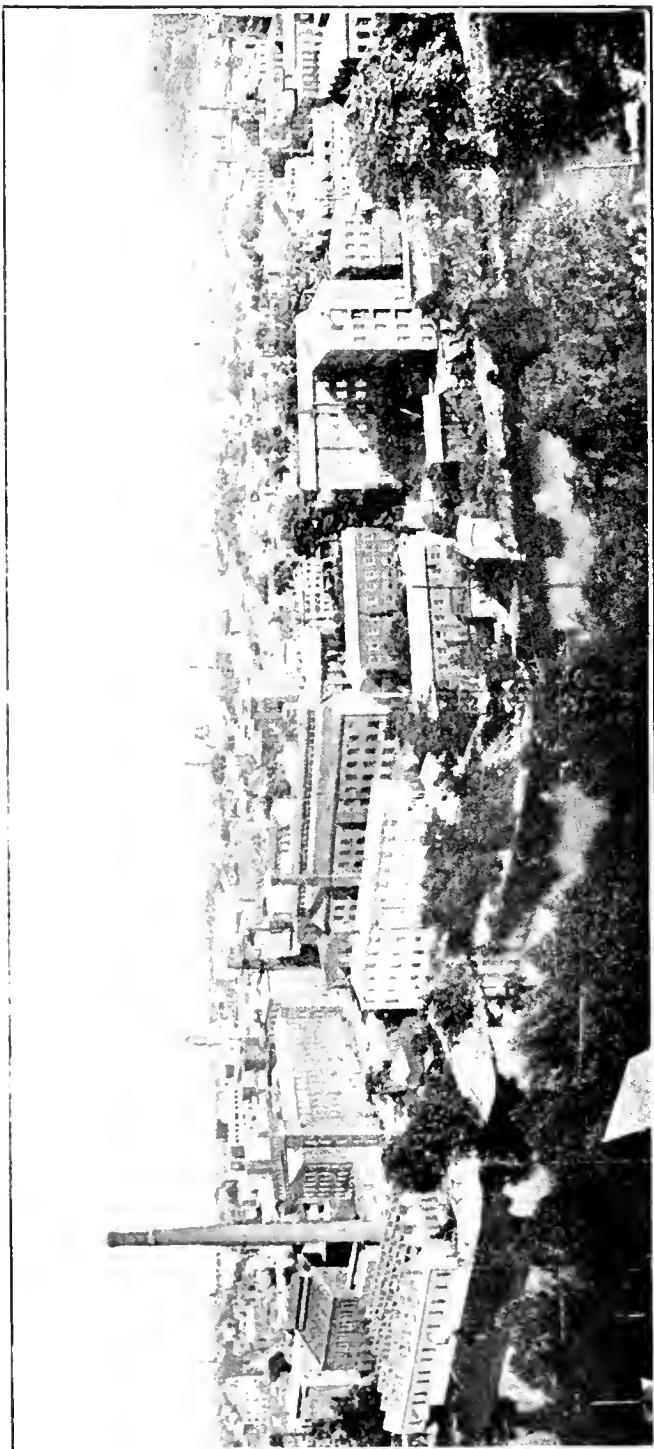
from even the slightest breath of scandal, but on the contrary, it was universally admitted, that in all matters of money and business transactions, he uniformly displayed an integrity altogether irreproachable, and a sense of honor delicate to the last degree. All insinuations of wrong doing in the conduct of the affairs of his Department vanished like mists before the morning sun, and he emerged from these base calumnies with an unsullied reputation.

The great minister of Napoleon I, Talleyrand, that cruel cynic, who was wont to judge men most soberly, and rather underrated their moral qualities, stood in awe before the first Financial Secretary, of the young Republic. He proclaimed him as being one of the wonders of the world, and spoke of him as a man laboring all night to support his family, while he had made the fortune of a nation.

#### **Retirement Into Private Life.**

Upon his retirement from the head of the Treasury Department, he was offered but declined the high Office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America, made vacant by the retirement from that position of John Jay. He felt that the needs of his family required his immediate attention to the practice of Law, so that he might earn a competency for them, but while he was engaged in his profession his interest in public affairs never flagged, and his advice and co-operation were frequently sought by Washington and others. It is now known that he materially aided Washington in preparing his famous farewell address.

In 1798, when there was prospect of war between France and the United States, it was deemed neces-



PANORAMA OF PATERSON, N. J., in 1907.



ary to reorganize the Army. President Adams conferred the chief command on General Washington, who had since his retirement from the Presidency, led an idyllic life at his country seat on Mount Vernon. Washington however accepted the position only on the conditions, that he should not be called into the field except in case of actual hostilities, and that Hamilton should be second in command.

President Adams, who conceived a great dislike for Hamilton, would at first not hear of such an appointment, and it was only when Washington threatened to resign the command that Hamilton was appointed Inspector General, with the rank of Major General. On the lamented death of Washington, late in 1799, Hamilton succeeded him as Commander-in-Chief, and when he had brought the Army into thorough organization and discipline, the emergency had passed, and he resigned his command in 1800.

It will be of interest in this connection to reproduce a letter of Hamilton, written at that period, which is furnished by the courtesy of his eldest grandson, Major-General Alexander Hamilton, ninety-two years of age, who resides in Tarrytown, N. Y.

The letter addressed to Mrs. Hamilton is as follows:—

Elizabeth Town  
Friday Oct. 17, 1799.

I am thus far my dear Elize on my  
way to New York. But I am under a  
necessity of viewing the ground for  
Winter quarters today, which will prevent  
my being with you before tomorrow.  
Then pleases God I shall certainly  
embrace you & my dear John—

A Thousand blessings upon you

Yrs. Ever,  
A. H.

The "My dear John" spoken of in this letter was Col. John Church Hamilton, son of the Statesman and his biographer.

In the year 1800 Hamilton was elected President General of the Order of the Cincinnati.

In the Presidential election of the same year the Federalist party under Hamilton's leadership, had been defeated. He advised his friends, to support Thomas Jefferson rather than Aaron Burr, when the duty devolved on the House of Representatives to decide which of these two men should become President. He succeeded in accomplishing the defeat of Burr, and from that moment a hostility existed between Hamilton and Burr that neither cared to conceal.

### Political Survey.

Before we enter into the last and sad chapter of Hamilton's life, it is well that we pause a moment for retrospection. The early history of our Republic shows the existence of two great parties, the Federalists under Hamilton's leadership, striving for a firm, central government. The Republicans under the guidance of Thomas Jefferson, were in favor of States' Sovereignty, with only limited powers granted to the central government. From the inauguration of President Jefferson to the Civil War, Jefferson's party which afterwards became known as the "Democratic Party," was in the ascendant.

The "Republican Party," which evolved from the old "Federalist" or "Whig" party, had also been in existence some time prior to our civil conflict.

It would ill become a student of our Republic's history, to dwell upon the merits or demerits in



## HAMILTON

STATUE ON CITY HALL PLA. A. PATERSON, N. J.  
Unveiled Memorial Day 1907



favor of one or the other party, for there can be no manner of doubt that the great and distinguished men of either party were striving for the good of their common country, just as God gave them light to see the right.

If Thomas Jefferson had left no other legacy to his countrymen than his bold authorship of that immortal document known to all the World, as "The Declaration of Independence of these United States," his claim to fame and the eternal gratitude of his fellow citizens in all generations to come, would have been all-sufficient.

So it must in truth be said of Alexander Hamilton, if his name could be connected with nothing else, but that he had been the principal and moving spirit of that imperishable "Magna Charta," the "Constitution of the United States of America," it would have been enough to crown him with everlasting glory. Through his wisdom and accurate foresight, he secured for his fellow citizens "Freedom of Conscience," acknowledging no special religious belief, but granting absolute guarantees from interference in the exercises of each individual form of worship.

The American policy of non-interference in European polities is based upon Alexander Hamilton's earnest recommendation to Washington to refuse to let this country be drawn into European quarrels.

Washington reaffirmed this rigid policy in his "Farewell Address" by admonishing his fellow countrymen to abstain from any participation in European affairs and from these fundamental principles evolved afterwards "The Monroe Doctrine."

Hamilton was accused and is to this day accused in certain quarters, of having been an "Aristocrat,"

and in favor of a ~~monarchical~~<sup>republican</sup> form of government. Nothing is more fallacious than such notions. It is quite true he had no sympathy with mob rule, such as made itself manifest during the first great French Revolution, but then again, he was imbued with the spirit of self government, and "for a government of the people, by the people, for the people," as some sixty years later, that other great exponent of popular government, the immortal Lincoln, so forcibly expressed himself.

The terrible evidences of mob supremacy and anarchy were vividly brought home to us by the awful spectacle, which lawless Russia has been giving to the world:—The unchained passions of an oppressed and misguided people, seeking vengeance on the just and on the unjust.

Again, what we have been permitted to witness in our own days, an achievement which has called forth the admiration of the entire world, bringing forward our great country, as a potent factor for peace and amity toward all nations, has only been made possible by a strict adherence to the grand policy of Hamilton.

The spirit of Alexander Hamilton is plainly discernible in the pursuance of the principles of Statesmanship, laid down by him, finding their culmination in the conference from which emanated what is now known to the world as, "The Treaty of Peace of Portsmouth, New Hampshire," between Japan and Russia, in the year 1905.

Alexander Hamilton was also one of the principal founders of the "New York Evening Post," which issued its first copy on November 16th, 1801. This

conservative and influential journal has been published ever since uninterruptedly, day by day.

Regarding Hamilton's religious convictions, it is on record that shortly before his death he said of Christianity, in his sincere and positive way:

"I have studied it, and I can prove its truth as clearly as any proposition ever submitted to the mind of man." He lived and died as a man for whom religious belief brought consolation, and that peace of mind which only earnest and sincere conviction can grant. There was nothing hypocritical in his composition, and he was as true in his relation to his Master, as he was to his fellowmen.

### The Beginning of the End.

(The shadow of a great calamity is now upon us.) Aaron Burr had never forgiven Hamilton for having been instrumental in depriving him of the Presidency, in favor of Thomas Jefferson. However, in 1800, he was not quite ready to seek vengeance. Hamilton, although retired from all offices and pursuing his great and remunerative Law practice, was ever alive to all public issues. When, therefore, in 1804, Burr, who then filled the high office of Vice-President of the United States of America, declared himself desirous to become Governor of the State of New York, it was again, through Hamilton's ~~instinct~~ mentality and efforts, that Burr was thwarted in his ambition, and defeat—his lot.

The enmity already engendered turned into open hatred, and Burr was determined to destroy his great opponent.

He sought and found an excuse to challenge him to a duel. He referred in a letter to Hamilton to

DENY

some expressions of the latter, rather uncomplimentary to Burr's political character, and asked for a complete retraction which Hamilton, after consultation with some of his friends, declined. Burr again wrote, this time demanding a most *(peremptory and)* unqualified answer, which Hamilton again refused to give. As a man of honor, he could not privately repudiate what was known to be his public opinion of Burr's political shortcomings.

When it became evident to Hamilton that he was to meet his adversary on the so-called "Field of Honor," the *prémonition* of his fate had plainly fallen across his soul, and it was the melancholy foreboding of the result of this meeting which led Hamilton to prepare a paper in explanation and vindication of his course. He declared:

That he was certainly desirous of avoiding this interview;

That; 1) His religious and moral principles were strongly opposed to the practice of duelling, and it would ever give him pain, to be obliged to shed the blood of a fellow creature in a private combat forbidden by the Laws;

That; 2) His wife and children were extremely dear to him, and his life of the utmost importance to them in various ways;

That; 3) He felt a sense of obligation towards his creditors, who in case of an accident to him, might become in some degree, sufferers. He did not think himself at liberty as a man of probity, lightly to expose them to such a condition;

That; 4) He was conscious of no ill-will to Colonel Burr, except from distinctly political opposition, and which as he trusted, had proceeded from pure and upright motives;

And That; 5) and Lastly: By the issue of this interview, he would risk much and could possibly gain nothing.

Abhorring, as he did, the practice of duelling, still he felt that if he was to be useful in future, in



THE HOME OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON

and

THE THIRTEEN GUM TREES PLANTED BY HIMSELF IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES.

HAMILTON GRANGE.

This House was the Home of  
GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

First Secretary of the Treasury  
of the United States under President Washington  
Built 1801 on South Side of 143d St., West of Convent Ave.  
Moved to East Side of Convent Ave., near 141st St., 1889.

This Tablet was placed by  
The Washington Heights Chapter,  
Daughters of American Revolution,  
April, 1907.



---

public as well as in private life, he could not decline the call. Public prejudices, in these days demanded of him to meet his opponent.

He had solemnly resolved, however, if the opportunity were given him, not to fire on his antagonist, but to throw his fire away.

As the time approached for the fatal meeting, he set his papers and affairs in such order as he could, and wrote his will. In it he entreated his children, should there not be enough left for the payment of his debts, as soon as they should be able, to endeavor to make up the deficiency. He also felt at that hour that he had sacrificed too far the interests of his family to public duties. His letter of farewell to his wife and children is full of tender words, and the pathos and affection of these last sacred terms of parting are indescribably touching.

### The Duel.

On the morning of July 11th, 1804, Hamilton set out from his country home, "THE GRANGE," overlooking the Hudson River, and where today is West One Hundred and Forty-third Street and Convent Avenue, New York, to meet his death. The principals met with their seconds at a little secluded ledge which nestled beneath the heights of Weehawken, N. J., and not far above the level of the Hudson. It was the favorite spot for duels in those days. Placed at their appointed stations and at the command—"Present," the pre-arranged signal to fire, Burr paused an instant to take deliberate aim, and fired. Hamilton, having been shot in the groin, convulsively raised himself upon his toes, and fell forward up-

on his face, his pistol going off as he fell, sending the ball through the foliage of the surrounding trees.

Hamilton was raised into a sitting posture; upon examination by the physician it was found the ball had struck him in the right side. In feeble tones he could just articulate: "This is a mortal wound," and then fell into a swoon.

As they bore him gently to the river bank, he opened his wandering eyes, and said: "My vision is indistinct."

William Bayard, an intimate friend and co-worker, offered his house in case of disaster and to it the boat wended its way as quickly as possible with Hamilton aboard, whose precious life was fast ebbing away. He then bade them to send for his wife, adding: "Let the event be gradually broken to her; but give her hopes."

In the meantime Burr, by the advice of his seconds, had retired from the scene.

#### Hamilton's Death.

With wan and feverish face Hamilton tenderly took leave of those to whom he was bound by the most sacred ties, and lapsed into unconsciousness, thus being mercifully relieved from the intense pain, which the terrible wound caused him to suffer. His great soul went to its reward at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the day following the duel, July 12th, 1804, in the forty-eighth year of his age.

Although news was not disseminated as quickly in those days as is now done, still the trite saying:— "Bad news travels swiftly," became a reality in the case of Hamilton's fatal misfortune. Lamentations,



SCENE AT WEELAWKEN, N. J., JULY 11, 1804.

AFTER ALEXANDER HAMILTON HAD RECEIVED HIS DEATH WOUND AT THE HANDS OF AARON BURR.

From an old copper-plate, Courtesy of New York State's *Zeitung*.



deep and genuine were heard on all sides from friends and political opponents, and bitter execrations were hurled at his slayer. With amazing rapidity the great loss which the republic sustained by the death of her distinguished son became known throughout the land. Great as the people's sorrow was, when Washington entered into his eternal rest, crowned with honors, and in the fulness of his years, the grief at the untimely taking off of this bright intellect was still more pathetic in its intensity.

The entire nation was thrown into mourning by the death of Hamilton, and the manner of his demise struck horror to the hearts of every one. The universal sorrow of those days can only be likened to the sad experiences which this nation was called upon to undergo, at the time of the violent deaths of the exalted Lincoln, the martyred Garfield and the beloved McKinley.

The confidence which had been reposed in the wisdom of Hamilton, and the sense of security which his powerful personality gave to the people at large, was made manifest by the sincere mourning of the multitudes, at his terrible and untimely end.

### Mementos.

Although a century and more has passed since these events took place, the spot where that historical duel occurred and the Sepulchre, wherein was entombed all that was mortal of Hamilton, are worthy of description. The boulder on which rested his head, after receiving the mortal wound, was removed from the river bank to the top of the cliff, when the West Shore Railroad was built. It is

crowned with a bust of Hamilton and contains a tablet with the following inscription:

1804.

1894.

Upon

this Stone

rested the head of the

Patriot, Soldier,

Statesman & Jurist

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

after the duel with

AARON BURR,

fought July 11th, 1804.

---

"The duel took place on the bank of the river near this spot; and the stone was moved here when the Railroad was built.—1894."

The point is an ideal one, on the Weehawken Heights, overlooking the Hudson, and about opposite where today is Forty-second Street, New York.

It was eminently meet and fitting, that the remains of so distinguished a man should have been deposited in old Trinity Churchyard, the Westminster of our young Nation. On the Rector Street side, near that great center of activity, and where pulsates the financial interests not only of this continent, but of the entire world, Wall Street, Hamilton is sleeping his last sleep. With reverence we approach this hallowed shrine and pause with bated breath, to read:



ALEXANDER HAMILTON'S BUST, TABLET AND STONE,  
AT WEEHAWKEN, N. J.



## IN MEMORY OF

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

The Corporation of Trinity Church has erected this

## MONUMENT

In Testimony of the respect

for

The Patriot of Incorruptible Integrity

The Soldier of Approved Valour

The Statesman of Consummate Wisdom

Whose Talents and Virtues will be admired

BY

Grateful Posterity

Long after this marble shall have mouldered into

DUST.

He died July 12, 1804. Aged 47.

Close by are interred the remains of Mrs. Hamilton, and a tablet tells us that there lies:

E L I Z A ,

Daughter of

PHILIP SCHUYLER

Widow of

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

Born at ALBANY

August 9th, 1757.

Died at WASHINGTON

November 9th, 1854.

---

INTERRED HERE.



TOMB OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON.  
IN TRINITY CHURCH YARD, NEW YORK CITY.



On the north wall of the vestry room in Trinity Church of New York City, the New York Society of the Cincinnati placed a marble bust of Hamilton, beneath which is inscribed this beautiful tribute:

This Tablet  
Does not profess to perpetuate  
the Memory of a Man,  
to whom the age has produced  
no superior,  
nor to emblazon Worth  
eminently conspicuous in every feature  
of his Country's greatness,  
nor to anticipate Posterity in their  
Judgment of the Loss which she has  
sustained by his premature death.  
But to attest,  
in the Simplicity of Grief,  
the veneration and anguish which fill  
the Hearts of the Members of the  
New York State Society of  
CINCINNATI  
on every recollection  
of their illustrious Brother  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON,  
Obit 1804 — Aetatis 47.

### Hamilton's Slayer.

With the personality of Aaron Burr, we have no concern. Brilliant as were his faculties he was devoid of all moral sense. His courage in battle and his ability in the council chamber cannot be gainsaid, but the sinister traits of his ~~pestilential~~ character involved him in questionable transactions which ultimately brought him before the bar of justice. He was accused of high treason against his country, and although this great crime was not proven against him, he fled and for many years was exiled from his native land. He attained an age of over eighty years, dying in poverty and obscurity, thus proving that that duel was infinitely more fatal to the blood-stained survivor than to his immortal victim.

### Conclusion.

Alexander Hamilton's chief qualities of mind were a clear and vigorous reasoning faculty, and a chaste and prolific imagination. In the discussion of any subject, he seized hold of the main points with the vigor of an intellectual giant, and handled them skilfully, gracefully and with ease. His essays, pamphlets, and reports are masterpieces; each perfect, symmetrical and finished in itself. The eloquence of Hamilton was a model of perfection, whether it was displayed in a deliberative assembly, in the Courts of Justice, or in the Halls of the Academy. He was possessed of a retentive memory, and clear discrimination and was gifted with untiring industry. His integrity and honesty were unimpeachable. As a soldier, Hamilton was eminently brave, chivalrous and prudent.

Alexander Hamilton's personal appearance was pleasing and attractive. Although he was under the middle size, he carried himself very erect, and his bearing was dignified and courtly. He was thin in person; his complexion was delicate and fair, and his cheeks rosy. He had a rather long and straight nose, and steel blue eyes, with remarkable force of penetration. His hair he was accustomed to comb back from his forehead, to powder and to collect in a cue behind, as was the habit in his days. His forehead was high, capacious, and prominent; his voice was musical, his manner frank and impulsive. His appearance and carriage betokened a man of great intellect and one fully conscious of his mental powers.

The virtues of Alexander Hamilton should ever be worthy of the truest emulation by all generations to come.

We would, however, lay ourselves open to just censure were we to attempt to depict Hamilton as having been without failings or without errors.

But in justice to his character it must be admitted that he was courageous enough to acknowledge his foibles; nor must we lose sight of the fact that the standard by which morality was gauged a century and more ago, was not of that high plane to which society in this enlightened age is expected to conform.

Well may we throw the cloak of Charity over his shortcomings; the inestimable services he rendered to his country and the many virtues which were united in his person, entitle him to the considerate judgment of posterity.

It is well, therefore, in conclusion, to recall the testimony some of his notable contemporaries and other men of eminence have borne to his genius, the talents of which he so unreservedly gave to his country.

Fisher Ames, of Massachusetts, one of his contemporaries, spoke of Hamilton as

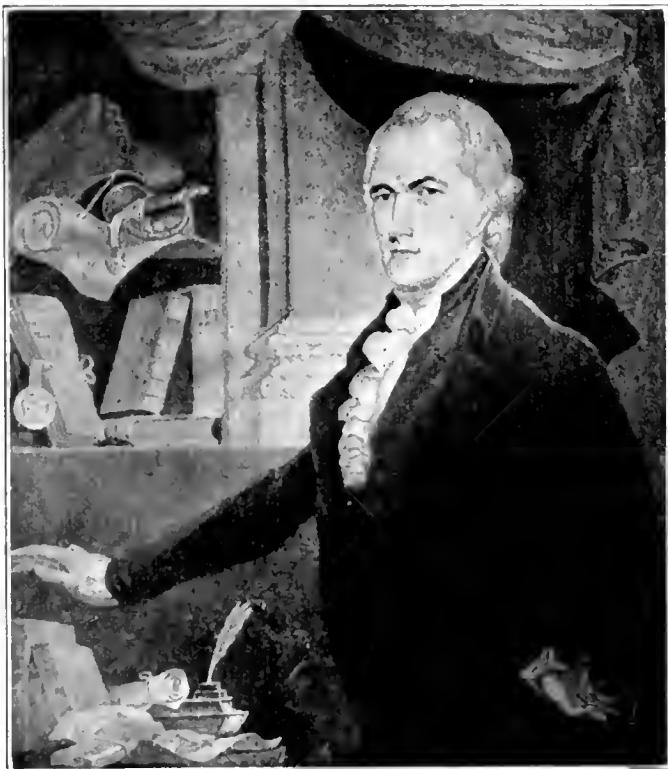
"A Lawyer, his comprehensive genius reached the principles of his profession; he compassed its extent, he fathomed its profound, perhaps even more familiarly and easily, than the ordinary rules of its practice. With most men law is a trade; with him it was a science.

"As a statesman, he was not more distinguished by the great extent of his views than by the caution with which he provided against impediments, and the watchfulness of his care over right and the liberty of the subject. In none of the many revenue bills which he framed, though committees reported them, is there to be found a single clause that savors of despotic power; not one that the sagest champions of law and liberty would, on that ground, hesitate to approve and adopt.

"The only ordinary distinction, he did aspire, was military; and for that, in the event of a foreign war, he would have been solicitous. He undoubtedly discovered the predominance of a soldier's feelings, and all that is honor in the character of a soldier was at home in his heart. His early education was in the camp; there the first fervors of his genius were poured forth, and his earliest and most cordial friendships formed; there he became enamoured of glory, and was admitted to her embrace.

"Those who knew him best, and especially in the army, will believe, that if occasions had called him forth, he was qualified, beyond any man of the age, to display the talents of a great general.

"It may be very long before our country will want such military talents; it will probably be much longer before it will again possess them."



ALEXANDER HAMILTON,  
MAJOR GENERAL OF UNITED STATES ARMIES, AND  
SECRETARY OF TREASURY.

From an old steel engraving in the possession of St. Luke's P. E. Church  
New York City.



John Marshall, the eminent Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America, in describing the "Troubles of the first Administration," wrote in his well balanced and judicial manner the following:

"Until near the close of the war Mr. Hamilton had served his country in the field; and, just before its termination, had passed from the camp into congress, where he remained for some time after peace had been established. In the former station, the danger to which the independence of his country was exposed from the imbecility of its government was perpetually before his eyes; and, in the latter, his attention was forcibly directed towards the loss of its reputation, and the sacrifice of its best interests, which were to be ascribed to the same cause. Mr. Hamilton, therefore, was the friend of a government which should possess, in itself, sufficient powers and resources to maintain the character, and defend the integrity of the nation. Having long felt and witnessed the mischiefs produced by the absolute sovereignty of the States, and by the control which they were enabled and disposed separately to exercise over every measure of general concern, he was particularly apprehensive of danger from that quarter; which he, probably, believed was to be the more dreaded, because the habits and feelings of the American people were calculated to inspire state, rather than national prepossessions. Under the influence of these impressions, he is understood to have avowed opinions in the convention favorable to a system in which the executive and senate, though elective, were to be rather more permanent, than they were rendered in that which was actually proposed. He afterwards supported the constitution, as framed, with great ability, and contributed essentially to its adoption. But he still retained, and openly avowed the opinion, that the greatest hazards to which it was exposed arose from its weakness, and that American liberty and happiness had much more to fear from the encroachments of the great states, than from those of the general government."

Daniel Webster, one of the greatest statesmen this or any other country ever produced, uttered these sentiments:

"Alexander Hamilton was made Secretary of the Treasury; and how he fulfilled the duties of such a place, at such a time, the whole country perceived with delight and the whole world saw with admiration. He smote the rock of the national resources, and abundant streams of revenue gushed forth. He touched the dead corpse of the Public Credit, and it sprang forth upon its feet. The fabled birth of Minerva, from the brain of Jove, was hardly more sudden or more perfect than the financial system of the United States, as it burst forth from the conceptions of Alexander Hamilton."



**IN MEMORIAM.**

Thus

lived a noble Life,

ALEXANDER HAMILTON,

THE RESOURCEFUL FINANCIER,

THE WISE COUNSELLOR,

THE LEARNED JURIST,

THE EMINENT STATESMAN;

and thus faced with

equal nobility and classic composure,

an untimely fate;

THE GREAT PATRIOT,

THE GALLANT SOLDIER,

THE PROFOUND SCHOLAR,

THE ACCOMPLISHED GENTLEMAN,

but towering far above these Parts,

thus securing Immortality,

Behold The MAN

OF COURAGE, OF FIDELITY, OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

AND HONOR.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.



## AD HONOREM.

A s the ages roll along  
B right and darkness interchanging  
E ver shifting scenes creating  
X tol the fame of HAMILTON,  
A ll for his country's greatness  
N ever faltering, never ceasing  
D omninated his brave soul;  
E volving from his mind's conception  
R arest gift — Our Constitution.

H onor then, ye generations  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON  
M aster, wise in statesmanship  
I ntellect of world renown  
L eader to America's glory  
T orer for her liberty,  
O nward may his spirit guide  
N ation Thee — his hope, his pride.













LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 011 711 739 A